



**State Board of Education Request for
Freeway School Accreditation**

Name of Requesting School:	Midwest Academy
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Board Date:	September 1, 2010	Grade Span:	K-12
Education Director:	Roberta Ullery-Coombs	Public or Private:	Private
Location Address:	1012 West Indiana Street Kouts, IN 46347	Enrollment:	74
City/Town:	Kouts	Targeted Student Population:	Residential, Psychiatric Facility Students

Indiana Department of Education

Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation

The following executive summary has been compiled by the Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation for use by the Indiana State Board of Education. It includes information presented by the school during the accreditation process, potential legal standard issues, and any other information collected during the process that may impact accreditation.

Summary of Materials Presented to the Board:

- 1. Identity** – Midwest Academy is a freeway accredited school located on a residential campus for students who require treatment for mental illness. Midwest Center for Youth and Families is a 74 bed locked and secured residential treatment facility providing psychiatric treatment for children and adolescents ranging in age from 6-20 with mental illness. Educational services are provided to students in grade K-post graduate in six multi-age classrooms. There are two campuses one located in Kouts, IN and the other in Valparaiso, IN. The facility is JCAHO (Joint Commission and Accreditation of Health Care Organizations) accredited and licensed by the State of Indiana as a behavioral health care hospital.
- 2. Attendance** – Midwest Academy operates a year round calendar. Students attend 222 instructional days. Because of its nature as a residential treatment facility, attendance is never an issue. Students receive instruction based on their experience in their home school. Midwest strives to maintain educational services to facilitate the student's return to their home school when they are dismissed.
- 3. Graduation** – High school students earn credits upon the successful completion of a course and transcripts are sent to their home school of legal settlement upon discharge. Midwest Academy has a system in place for students admitted who are pursuing an Academic Honors diploma. Communication with the home school is established and coursework and necessary requirements for the student. An agreement is reached regarding the assignment of coursework and monitoring, allowing students the opportunity to continue the coursework designed by their home school is ideal, allowing the student a successful

transition upon discharge. Educators work individually with each student to ensure they are on track and mastering the academic requirements.

4. **Benchmarks** – Due to the unique nature of the school and students who are in attendance for varied amounts of time, progress will be evaluated by completion of state required reports, internal audits of student success and achievement, classroom observations, participation in state wide assessments and feedback from the student's home school officials.
5. **Staffing** –Midwest Center for Youth and Families currently employs six classroom teachers and one administrator. Each teacher and administrator is properly licensed by the State of Indiana Department of Education. Two educators hold a professional license in K-12 Special Education. The building level administrator holds a professional license in Building Level Administration and K-12 Special Education.
6. **Waiver Requests:**
 - a. IC 20-30-2-7 Defined School Year. Midwest Academy operates a year round calendar. Students attend for 222 school days.
 - b. IC 20-30-5-8; IC 20-30-5-9; IC 20-30-5-11. Student time spent in treatment is limited. Midwest Academy focuses on core academic skills during instruction and therefore requests a waiver of these courses.
 - c. 511 IAC 6.1-3-4; 511 IAC 6.1-5-0.5; 511 IAC 6.1-5-1; 511 IAC 6.1-5-2.5; 511 IAC 6.1-5-3.5; 511 IAC 6.1-5-4 Curricular Requirements. Midwest Academy focuses on individual student needs and abilities during treatment. Core academic subjects (Language Arts, Literature, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies) are taught and curriculum is modified to meet individual needs in all grade levels. Indiana State Standards and Benchmarks are addressed across all grade levels. A waiver is requested so that the focus is on core academics.
 - d. IC 20-26-12-24; IC 20-26-12-26; IC 20-26-12-28; IC 20-26-12-1; IC 20-26-12-2; 511 IAC 6.1-5-5 Textbook adoption. Midwest Academy adheres to Indiana Academic Standards and Benchmarks for instructional purposes. Textbooks are purchased based on student need, abilities and availability.

Issues: Benchmarks are difficult to measure with the heavy turnover of students and the wide variety of age levels. There are too few students in a single grade level for any measurement to be accurate.

Recommendations: It is recommended that Midwest Academy be afforded Freeway Accreditation for a period of five years.

Rationale: Midwest Academy provides quality instruction to its students during their stay at the residential facility, allowing for a smooth transition academically when discharged and returning to their home school.